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Summary record of the 37th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 13 May 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/65/703 and Corr.1, A/65/743/Add.15 and A/65/776)

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Agenda item 159: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (A/65/631, A/65/740 and A/65/743/Add.13)

Agenda item 160: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (A/65/619, A/65/743/Add.16 and A/65/809)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/65/703 and Corr.1), said that the approved budget for that period had amounted to $732.4 million and expenditure to $713.7 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $18.7 million, which represented a utilization rate of 97.5 per cent. The main causes of the variance were delays in the deployment of the additional military contingent and police personnel, including contingent-owned equipment authorized by Security Council resolution 1908 (2010), and deployment of some equipment by ship rather than by air. Other variances were the direct or indirect results of the earthquake in Haiti, namely, higher actual vacancy rates for civilian personnel owing to the absence of staff from the Mission area following the earthquake and lower than projected requirements for exceptional entitlements for affected staff; additional requirements for the acquisition of prefabricated facilities, sea containers and equipment for the new offices and accommodations and for the support of camps for internally displaced persons and of new contingents deployed immediately following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1908 (2010); replacement of information and communications technology and ground transportation equipment damaged during the earthquake; and additional requirements for official travel owing mainly to the temporary assignment of staff from Headquarters and from other peacekeeping operations, costs associated with the deployment of staff to the Mission Support Centre in Santo Domingo, and the cost and higher number of selection and assessment visits to police-contributing countries. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 52 of the performance report.

2. The proposed budget of $810.3 million for MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/65/776) represented a 5.1 per cent decrease compared to the budget of $853.8 million approved by the General Assembly for 2010/11. The main factors contributing to the decreased resource requirements were the application of higher delayed deployment factors for military contingents and formed police personnel, refinement of the estimates for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment costs, lower average costs of rotation travel based on recent expenditure patterns, and no provision for freight and deployment of equipment, which was projected to be fully deployed in 2010/11; exclusion of provisions for support to the Office of the Special Envoy and direct support to the Government of Haiti; and fewer acquisitions of vehicles and communications and information technology equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 105 of the budget report.

3. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/65/630 and Corr.1), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $958.4 million for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $932.5 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $25.9 million, which represented an implementation rate of 97.3 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower costs of rations and bottled water as a result of using drinking water from water treatment plants; unutilized balances for international staff owing to lower actual common staff costs than budgeted and discontinuation of hazardous duty station allowance payments for staff in Khartoum, El Obeid and Port Sudan, effective February 2010; lower consumption of aviation fuel due to the non-deployment of two aircraft and shorter periods of deployment of five aircraft; delays in implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme; additional requirements for national staff with the application of new salary scales; higher within-mission travel costs than foreseen to support the April 2010 elections in the Sudan; and additional requirements for the acquisition of information technology equipment for the United

Nations House in Juba. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 67 of the performance report.

4. The proposed budget of $947.1 million for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/65/731) reflected a 6 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $1,008 million, including the $70 million for support for the referendums in Southern Sudan, appropriated by the General Assembly for 2010/11. The main causes of the variance were the application of new salary scales for international staff, lower delayed recruitment factors for international and national staff, and higher rental and operation costs for helicopters. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 96 of the budget report.

5. Introducing the performance report of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/65/631), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $1,598.9 million and that expenditure had amounted to $1,547.8 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $51.1 million, representing an implementation rate of 96.8 per cent. The main causes of the variance were reduced rates for fresh rations and the delayed deployment of contingent-owned equipment; reduced requirements for construction services owing primarily to the cancellation of a contract after the contractor was unable to mobilize the required resources and put in place the necessary logistical arrangements; increased international staff costs owing to a lower than budgeted vacancy rate and higher actual costs; and increased resource requirements for the use of a third-party logistics provider to clear a backlog of United Nations-owned equipment at Port Sudan. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 94 of the performance report.

6. The proposed budget of $1,708.7 million for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/65/740) reflected a 5.5 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $1,808.1 million appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2010/11. The main causes of the variance were lower estimated resources for international staff costs, reduced requirements for construction services owing to the near completion of major projects, and reduced requirements for rations based on the prevailing contract terms. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 189 of the budget report.

7. Introducing the performance report on the financing of support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/65/619), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $213.6 million and expenditure had amounted to $164.3 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $49.3 million, which represented a utilization rate of 76.9 per cent. The main causes of the variance were unutilized balances under facilities and infrastructure as a result of delays in the approval of four major construction projects and the challenging security situation in Mogadishu; slower than projected deployments of AMISOM contingents; and a delay in staff recruitment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 46 of the performance report.

8. The proposed budget of $303.9 million for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/65/809) reflected a 74.3 per cent increase over the funding of $174.3 million appropriated for 2010/11. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for military and police personnel costs as a result of the increase in the African Union force strength from 8,000 to 12,000 troops requested by Security Council resolution 1964 (2010), and an increase in the cost of troop rotations; increases in civilian personnel costs with the addition of 56 new posts and temporary positions; increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, and medical and other supplies and services to support the increased number of troops; and increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation and naval transportation based on contractual prices of the existing turnkey fuel contract, the establishment of long-term maintenance service for vehicles, and the acquisition of special-purpose and materials-handling vehicles. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 125 of the budget report.

9. Pursuant to financial regulation 4.6 as amended by General Assembly resolution 64/269, the Secretary-General had sought the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $35.9 million for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 for the expanded operational activities and additional logistical and personnel requirements of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. The

Advisory Committee had agreed, subject to efforts to absorb $4.4 million of projected overexpenditure under civilian staff costs.

10. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MINUSTAH (A/65/743/Add.15), said that, based on information from the Secretary-General regarding a change in the planning assumptions for the proposed construction of the new Mission headquarters, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $17 million in the proposed budget of MINUSTAH. The Mission, now in its second year of post-earthquake surge capacity, was focusing on efforts to expand and sustain the stabilization gains achieved and to phase out that capacity as security conditions improved. There would be a renewed focus on the Mission's core mandate of maintaining political stability and establishing the rule of law in Haiti through support for capacity-building in the Haitian National Police and other State institutions. The support provided to the Government included construction of office accommodations and a temporary parliament building. The Advisory Committee welcomed the positive impact of the community violence reduction programme and quick-impact projects to address the risk of resurgence of violence in communities at risk. The Advisory Committee's recommendation on the performance report for MINUSTAH for 2009/10 (A/65/703 and Corr.1) was set out in paragraph 54 of its report.

11. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIS (A/65/743/Add.10), he said that the Secretary-General's proposed budget had been developed on the basis of a continuation of the Mission's mandate through 30 April 2011 as reflected in Security Council resolution 1919 (2010). However, by its resolution 1978 (2011), the Security Council had extended the mandate of UNMIS until 9 July 2011, announced its intention to establish a mission to succeed UNMIS and authorized UNMIS to utilize its assets to prepare for the establishment of the successor mission. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate, with assessment, an amount of $473,538,450 for the maintenance of UNMIS for the six-month period from 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011. The Advisory Committee's recommendation on the performance report for UNMIS for the 2009/10 period was set out in paragraph 31 of its report.

12. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNAMID (A/65/743/Add.13), he said that it recommended a reduction of $14.1 million, stemming from its recommendation that the delayed deployment factor for United Nations police should be increased from 10 per cent to 17 per cent in view of their current deployment status and the difficulties experienced by the Operation in obtaining visas for non-Arabic-speaking police officers. The Advisory Committee's detailed observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's proposed budget for UNAMID for 2011/12 were set out in chapter IV, section B, of its report.

13. With regard to the civilian staffing component, the Advisory Committee continued to be concerned at the recruitment and retention problems in UNAMID. The number of selected candidates who subsequently declined their offers of appointment was particularly troubling. While the Operation had taken some steps to improve matters, additional measures should be explored, including the further improvement of amenities, the availability of adequate accommodation and the provision of welfare and support services.

14. Concerning liaison with the African Union, the Advisory Committee noted that, in view of the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the related integration of the United Nations peace and security presence in Addis Ababa, the level of representational tasks assigned to the Joint Support and Coordination Mechanism of UNAMID would be reduced. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposed to reassign one P-5 post to the Office of the Chief of Staff. The Advisory Committee did not object to the proposal but expected that, once the United Nations Office to the African Union was operating at full capacity, further opportunities for downsizing the Joint Support and Coordination Mechanism would be explored.

15. The Advisory Committee's recommendation on the performance report of UNAMID was set out in paragraph 66 of its report. In its comments and observations on the financial performance of UNAMID during the 2009/10 period, the Advisory Committee had observed that a significant number of planned outputs had not been completed or had been only partially completed. While it recognized that external

factors created particular difficulties for the completion of the Operation's objectives, UNAMID should nevertheless redouble its efforts to implement all its expected accomplishments for 2011/12.

16. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of support of AMISOM (A/65/743/Add.16), he said that its recommendations would entail a reduction of $4,984,900 in the proposed budget. The proposed staffing level for the 2011/12 period represented an increase of 54 posts and 2 positions, including redeployment of 4 posts from the United Nations Political Office for Somalia to the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. The Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment of 10 of the 50 posts proposed, as the functions envisaged for some of the posts could be accommodated from within the available capacity of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM.

17. With respect to the deployment of 4,000 additional troops to AMISOM under Security Council resolution 1964 (2010), the Advisory Committee had been informed that 1,000 had been deployed in March 2011 and that a further 2,000 would be deployed in April and June 2011. It was yet to be determined which country would contribute the other 1,000 troops. Given the uncertainty of full deployment, and in light of the previous and current deployment trends, the Advisory Committee recommended that the delayed deployment factor for military contingent personnel should be adjusted from the proposed 10 per cent to 15 per cent for 2011/12. In that event, the related increases proposed under operational costs would have to be reduced accordingly.

18. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme evaluation of the performance and the achievement of results by UNMIS (A/65/752), said that the Security Council, in its resolution 1978 (2011), had decided to extend the mandate of UNMIS until 9 July 2011 and had announced its intent to establish a mission to succeed UNMIS. Since its inception in 2005, UNMIS had operated in unique circumstances and the present report offered an opportunity to seamlessly apply its experience and lessons learned to the successor mission.

19. The Mission's support in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement had contributed to a sustained ceasefire between North and South Sudan. Most of the governmental bodies and laws stipulated in the Agreement were in place and a wealth-sharing arrangement had been established. Other achievements included the successful support of elections, advancements in mine action, and ensuring the safety and security of personnel. The Mission's initial emphasis on Darfur demonstrated the impact of clear focus on the achievement of key mandates.

20. The national elections, however, had exposed weaknesses in the cooperation with the United Nations country team, which was partially due to the absence of a strategic planning cell. Had it been established at the outset, such a cell might have provided a framework for integrated programme planning and implementation. While cooperation had increased among the components of the Integrated United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit during the time of the referendum in Southern Sudan, a closer partnership with the United Nations Development Programme would have been beneficial. The successor mission must initiate a more effective partnership with the country team and other relevant stakeholders to enable "serving as one".

21. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that international efforts, which were fundamental to the reconstruction of Haiti, could succeed only through a long-term project under Haitian leadership and with full respect for the country's sovereignty. MINUSTAH should be given the resources it needed to discharge its renewed mandate and should be maintained in accordance with the wishes of the Government and people of Haiti. The Group would oppose any arbitrary reduction in those resources.

22. Rio Group members, whose support for peace and sustainable development in Haiti had predated the establishment of MINUSTAH, were the main contributors of troops and police to the Mission. They also provided technical cooperation, humanitarian and medical assistance, and other forms of support through bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms. To make a lasting contribution, the United Nations must address not only security but also economic development and institution-building. The Mission should therefore make the best use of available resources and capacities, including its engineers, to support Haiti's reconstruction and development. The Group, for its part, would continue to work with the

Government to implement long-term development strategies and to contribute to peacekeeping as necessary.

23. MINUSTAH had played an important role during the recent presidential and parliamentary elections, in cooperation with Haitian authorities and regional organizations, to help consolidate democracy and governance. Quick-impact projects, which responded to the immediate needs of local populations and built trust in the peacekeeping process, should be implemented according to the priorities set by the Haitian Government. The Group also supported the expansion of community violence reduction activities, including labour-intensive and income-generating projects for youth and women, which were crucial in addressing violence in at-risk communities and camps for internally displaced persons.

24. **Mr. Lafortune** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that Haiti needed international support to meet its humanitarian needs and, in the long term, to rebuild its infrastructure and institutions. Haitians were rightly frustrated by ongoing problems related to the removal of debris from the 2010 earthquake and the lack of housing, employment and access to basic services. Nevertheless, the strengthening of security institutions by MINUSTAH had ensured a more stable and secure environment for reconstruction and humanitarian efforts.

25. The Mission's increased focus on strengthening governance and the rule of law in Haiti would be a determining factor in long-term success. The three delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a new compact for the rule of law, in support of the Haitian Government and in collaboration with the international community, in order to implement a reform programme focusing on the police and on judicial and correctional institutions.

26. Any future decision to reduce the number of troops and police officers deployed to MINUSTAH must be made with great caution and should be planned in consultation with the Government. It would be crucial, when reassessing the Mission's mandate, to bear in mind the need to maintain political and social stability in Haiti.

27. **Mr. Di Luca** (Argentina) said that, following the earthquake of January 2010 in Haiti, it had been necessary to refocus MINUSTAH operations on maintaining political stability, restoring the institutional capacity of the national police and judicial and correctional institutions, and building the capacity of the State to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, provide humanitarian assistance and safeguard the country's borders. Those urgent requirements had tested the international community's commitment to Haiti's reconstruction, which required ongoing international cooperation. His Government's commitment was reflected in the fact that 70 per cent of peacekeeping troops from Argentina were deployed in MINUSTAH. The Mission's budget must provide adequate funding for strengthening the rule of law, rebuilding Haitian institutions, and reconstruction. The United Nations should also play a greater role in coordinating international support, which must be based on national priorities, with the goal of achieving sustained stability and the gradual transfer of responsibilities to Haitian authorities.

28. Given the special contribution that troop-contributing countries made to such efforts, it was necessary to ensure that they received full and timely reimbursement. The Committee must address an increase in payments for troop costs, which were long overdue for a review and now placed a financial burden on troop-contributing countries that might jeopardize their continued participation in peacekeeping operations.

29. **Mr. Déjoie** (Haiti) said that since its establishment by the Security Council in 2004, MINUSTAH had unfailingly supported the Haitian people in their quest for a stable and lasting democracy. The Government and people of Haiti were deeply grateful to the United Nations and its Member States for their support and wished to thank in particular the outgoing Head of Mission, Ambassador Edmond Mulet, for his commitment to the cause of Haiti. The upcoming inauguration of President-elect Michel Martelly before a democratically elected parliament would be welcomed by all those who continued to assist Haiti as it sought to establish political stability, address its many challenges, strengthen good governance and promote sustainable development.

30. His delegation was concerned that, nine months after the deployment of a special team to accelerate recruitment for MINUSTAH, the vacancy rate for national posts was still 36 per cent. He urged the

Secretariat to make every effort to fill the vacancies as quickly as possible.

31. He welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to maintain funding for quick-impact projects and community violence reduction programmes at $7.5 million and $9 million respectively. MINUSTAH should coordinate such activities more closely with the Government in order to avoid the duplication of projects that, as noted by the Advisory Committee, had resulted in the cancellation of contracts. The proposal to reorganize the quick-impact projects and increase maximum funding per project to $100,000 would facilitate the implementation of projects geared towards urgent needs.

32. Ensuring that local vendors had access to the United Nations procurement process was crucial for the country's sustainable development, which would in turn underpin its security and stability. His delegation would seek an update from the Secretariat, during the informal consultations, on the specific steps that had been taken to that end.

33. **Ms. Guerra** (Colombia) said that the implementation of long-term security and development strategies within a coherent and effective framework, which was crucial for Haiti, would require ongoing coordination among the Government of Haiti, MINUSTAH and the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission.

34. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that Brazil's participation in MINUSTAH was based on a spirit of solidarity and was aimed at strengthening Haitian national leadership in order to build a prosperous, democratic, stable and sovereign Haiti. He welcomed the progress Haiti had achieved with the support of MINUSTAH, which had helped improve security and stability, including during the elections. The humanitarian situation had also improved, although much remained to be done to assist those still living in camps.

35. MINUSTAH would require resources to support the Haitian Government in tackling security challenges such as resurgent gang violence, criminality and violence in camps. Security gains must be accompanied by social and economic opportunities and reconstruction and the Mission could help spur a virtuous cycle of stability and prosperity by supporting job creation and income generation. MINUSTAH should have a multidimensional focus in future, with increasing emphasis on civil affairs, community violence reduction, human rights, rule of law and policing. All necessary resources should be provided for community violence reduction programmes and quick-impact projects, which fostered good relations between peacekeepers and local populations. Such an approach would make peacekeepers early peacebuilders and deliver sustainable peace dividends, which was in keeping with his Government's view that the use of force should be the last resort.

36. Noting that a five per cent reduction in the proposed budget for MINUSTAH had resulted from a reduction in the number of international staff posts to offset the cost of harmonizing the conditions of service pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/248, he recalled that the Assembly had clearly stated that the harmonization must not impact on operational costs or undermine the implementation of mandated programmes and activities.

37. In view of the continuing needs in Haiti and the Mission's future tasks, he was concerned at the reductions proposed by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. His delegation, which opposed any arbitrary cut to the budgets of MINUSTAH and other peacekeeping missions, would seek clarification during the informal consultations.

38. **Ms. Takahashi** (Norway) said that the regional approach to peacekeeping missions had demonstrated its value at the strategic and operational levels in UNAMID and UNMIS and should be enhanced, particularly in respect of the establishment of a mission in the Sudan after 9 July 2011. OIOS had provided valuable recommendations on collaboration with regional organizations.

39. She welcomed the heightened attention being paid to the environmental impact of peacekeeping activities. The greening initiatives taken by UNAMID were examples of that attention and she urged greater focus on lessons learned and best practices to help mitigate the environmental impact of peacekeeping activities.

40. High vacancy rates in peacekeeping operations such as UNAMID impeded the implementation of mandates. Her delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on measures to strengthen the recruitment and retention of qualified civilian personnel in UNAMID and encouraged the

Department of Field Support to continue its efforts to improve the recruitment process in general.

41. The Sudan faced many challenges as the secession of Southern Sudan on 9 July 2011 approached. The structure of the new peacekeeping mission, including its area of operation, had yet to be decided. The mission should be given flexibility in the use of funds during the transition and start-up phases to allow for a restructuring in line with its new mandate. When missions faced a major change in the operational context, as had also occurred in Haiti, they should have the ability to shift their priorities and use of personnel. Such increased flexibility should be accompanied by improved results-based management and oversight.

42. She called for further development of the model whereby assessed contributions were used to fund the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM, which enabled AMISOM to operate while also providing a long-term investment in African Union peacekeeping capacities. Her delegation also concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the review and simplification of activities connected with the United Nations presence in Somalia.

43. **Ms. Bourne** (Barbados) said that, at the fourteenth meeting of the Council of Foreign and Community Relations of the Caribbean Community, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs had called for a mandate for MINUSTAH that would enable it to play a greater role in Haiti's reconstruction process. They had reiterated the Community's commitment to providing technical and professional expertise to support institution- and capacity-building in Haiti and had urged the international community to provide resources to strengthen the country's institutional and structural capacities.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.